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5950 North Course Drive, Houston, Texas 77072 Tel: 281 561 1300 · Fax: 281 561 7240 · www.miswaco.com

CARTER J. WHITE Patent Counsel Legal Department

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: PATEL, Arvind D.

Serial No.: 09/927619

Confirmation No.: 5353

Filed: August 10, 2001

For: BIODEGRADABLE SURFACTANT FOR INVERT

EMULSION DRILLING FLUID

Group Art Unit: 1712

Examiner: Phillip Tucker

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11836.0702.NPUS00

PA-00107US

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILIE TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

DATE OF TRANSMISSION 03/26/2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office 703 \$772 9306 on the date indicated above.

Signature

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

DO NOT ENTER P.T.

The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 7, 2004, for which the three-month date for response is April 7, 2004.